

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

LICENSED PRACTICAL and VOCATIONAL NURSES (LPNs, LVNs) are important members of a health team. They care for patients who are physically or mentally ill, including medical and surgical patients, convalescents, persons with disabilities, the frail elderly, and others. Under the supervision of doctors and registered nurses, they do nursing that requires technical knowledge.

Licensed Vocational Nurses take temperatures, pulse and blood pressure, keep medical charts, change dressings, and get patients ready for examination. They watch for changes in patients' conditions, know what these changes could mean, and take necessary action. They give prescribed medicine and injections. They may draw blood for testing and give intravenous fluids. These nurses assist doctors in diagnosis and therapy, and help the health team plan, implement, and evaluate nursing care. They may also supervise nurse aides. After specialized training, LVNs may work in psychiatry, surgery, intensive care, or coronary care.

Licensed Vocational Nurses work in hospitals, clinics, and in private offices. Some of them visit in-home patients.

Requirements

- ▲ Must be at least 17 years old.
- ▲ Sympathetic attitude toward the care of clients.
- ▲ Completion of a state-approved vocational nursing program.
- ▲ Receive a passing grade on the State Board of Vocational Nursing examination to qualify for a State license.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

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Wages

- ▲ Licensed Vocational Nurses
Median hourly wage: \$20.78
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$43,993

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

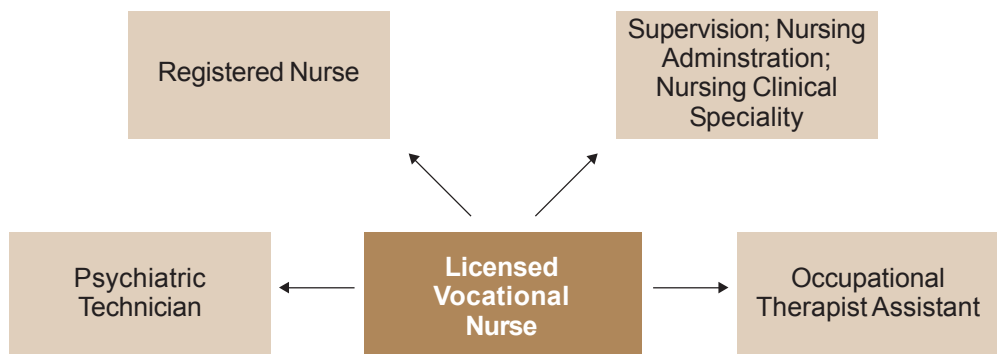
- ▲ Estimated number of LVNs in 2004: 53,600
- ▲ Estimated number of LVNs in 2014: 64,800
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 2,290

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
(916) 263-7800
www.bvnpt.ca.gov
- ▲ California Occupational Guide, No. 313
Licensed Vocational Nurses

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.